

Peabody, Daniel (EGLE)

From: Peabody, Daniel (EGLE)
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 9:34 AM
To: saric.james@epa.gov
Cc: Miller, Megen (AG); Roberts, Keegan (robertsk@cdmsmith.com); Williams, Lisa; Diana, Matthew (DNR); Wesley, Jay (DNR); Mills, Mark (DNR); Alexander, Kyle (EGLE); Haroldson, Derek (EGLE); Trumble, Luke (EGLE); Kline, David (EGLE); Walczak, Joseph (EGLE); Riley, John (EGLE)
Subject: EGLE Cover Letter and Detailed Comments_Kalamazoo River Superfund Site OU5 Area 1 Remedial Reach RA_DP_WTP
Attachments: FINAL_EGLE Cvr Letter and Comments_OU5 Area 1 Remedial Reach RA_DP_WTP.pdf

Jim,

Attached are EGLE's comments on the Round 5 submittals for subject work plans (WPs) that were submitted to support the upcoming remedial action (RA) for the Remedial Reach. The Round 5 submittals included the Decontamination Plan (DP), and the Water Treatment Plan (WTP). Comments on other RA WPs will be submitted under separate cover letters and generally grouped based on the week they were submitted.

Thanks,

Daniel Peabody
Environmental Quality Analyst
Remediation and Redevelopment Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
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GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

June 3, 2022

VIA E-MAIL and U.S. MAIL

Jim Saric
Remedial Project Manager
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard (SR-6J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3511

Dear Jim Saric:

SUBJECT: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Comments on the Decontamination Plan (DP), and the Water Treatment Plan (WTP), all dated April 2022, Area 1 of Operable Unit 5 (OU5), Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site (Site).

By way of this correspondence, EGLE formally submits this cover letter and detailed comments (attached) for inclusion in the Administrative Record for the Site. A brief description of the Area 1 remedial action (RA) is included below, and a few over-arching comments are provided thereafter.

The draft subject documents that were submitted provide details to support implementation of the Area 1 RA. Georgia-Pacific and International Paper are respondents (Respondents) to a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) (Docket No: V-W- 17-C-002) for remedial design (RD) and RA for Area 1 of OU5. The UAO requires implementation of the Area 1 Record of Decision (ROD) (Appendix A) and the procedures and requirements for implementing the work, are outlined in the Statement of Work (SOW) (Appendix B) that is included as an attachment to the UAO. The selected sediment remedy in the Area 1 ROD requires, among other things, excavation of the Crown Vantage Side Channel (CVSC) and select sediment 'hot spots' in a portion of the river referred to as the remedial reach which begins in the city of Kalamazoo near Mayors Riverfront Park and extends approximately three river miles downstream to Parchment.

Following completion of the RD/RA pre-design investigation (PDI) as described in the PDI Evaluation Report Parts 1 & 2, the PDI sampling in 2017 'eliminated' KPT-20 as a 'hot spot' but the PDI sampling identified Verburg Park Pond as a 'hot spot'.

At the 30 percent RD phase, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) approved a request from the Respondents to splinter the RD/RA for the sediment remedy into three individual components based on location. The RD and RA for the CVSC 'hot spot' was completed in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

The 95 percent Sediment Remedial Design (95RD) – Remedial Reach, which included design details for ‘hot spots’ KRT-4, KRT-5/FF-19, and SIM-1 was submitted in August 2021, followed by an Addendum that was submitted in October 2021 for Bedform 118 (SED-118), which is an additional ‘hot spot’ located upstream of the Verburg Park Pond outlet that was identified during the RD/RA PDI and added to the scope of the RD/RA by the U.S. EPA during development of the 95RD – Remedial Reach. EGLE provided a cover letter and detailed comments on the 95RD – Remedial Reach and Addendum to the U.S. EPA on October 27, 2021. The Final Sediment Remedial Design (100RD) – Remedial Reach was submitted on December 17, 2021. EGLE provided comments on the 100RD to the U.S. EPA on February 9, 2022, and the U.S. EPA issued an approval of the 100RD and authorization to proceed with RA the same day. The sediment RD for the furthest upstream ‘hot spot’ in the Remedial Reach, KPT- 19, is not part of this RD/RA. EGLE expects to receive a standalone RD for KPT-19 soon.

The subject documents were submitted per the requirements of Section 4 of the SOW and provide details for sediment ‘hot spots’ referred to as KRT-4, KRT-5/FF-19, Verburg Park Pond, SED-118 and SIM-1, which are in the Remedial Reach. Similar to the RA work plans and documents that were submitted by the Respondents prior to implementing the RA at the CVSC, an expedited review and comment time is being requested so that the RA can begin or around June 13, 2022. The subject DP and WTP work plans were submitted on April 29, 2022.

EGLE’s comments were developed after reviewing the subject documents, presentation slides provided during work groups meetings that were held on March 29, April 11, April 12, April 19, April 22, April 26, May 3, and May 10, and following a site visit to the proposed staging areas that was held on April 7 and attended by the U.S. EPA and their consultant (Jacobs Engineering), EGLE, the Area 1 Respondents and their respective consultants (Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions [Wood], and GeoSyntec Consultants), and the contractor that was selected by the Respondents to implement the RA (Sevenson Environmental Services).

A couple comments on the subject RA work plans are included below and detailed comments are provided as an attachment.

1. As commented on other work plan reviews, revise the text to include a requirement that scows and equipment which have been in direct contact with Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) sediments will require polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) wipe sampling verification of proper decontamination prior to using equipment for non TSCA sediment and or clean backfill placement.
2. The text states that, “*The on-site WTS will treat water to the requirements presented in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and pending Substantive Requirements Document (SRD) – Attachment 1.*” Because Attachment 1 has not been included with the WTP, the list of analytes required to be tested for NPDES permit compliance should be provided. In addition to PCBs, other contaminants (i.e., per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance, dioxins/furans, etc.)

may be required for compliance as part of the NPDES permit requirements as these contaminants are known to exist at the site.

EGLE appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the subject Work Plans for Area 1 and looks forward to working with all parties involved on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Daniel Peabody, Environmental Quality Analyst, Remediation and Redevelopment Division at 517-285-3924; PeabodyD@Michigan.gov; or EGLE, P.O. Box 30426, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7926.

Sincerely,



Daniel Peabody
Environmental Quality Analyst
Superfund Section
Remediation and Redevelopment Division

Attachments

att/cc: Megan Miller, Michigan Department of Attorney General
Dr. Keegan Roberts, CDM Smith
Dr. Lisa Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Matt Diana, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
Mark Mills, MDNR
Jay Wesley, MDNR
Kyle Alexander, EGLE
Derek Haroldson, EGLE
David Kline, EGLE
John Riley, EGLE
Luke Trumble, EGLE
Joseph Walczak, EGLE

Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site

Area 1 Decontamination Plan

Remedial Reach

Kalamazoo River Area 1

April 2022

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Commenting Organization: EGLE

Section: 2.2

Page #: 2

Lines #: 2-3

Specific Comment #1: Revise the second sentence for clarity. Some information regarding PPE appears to be missing due to potential typographic errors.

Commenting Organization: EGLE

Section: 3.4.1

Page #: 4

Lines #: 9-12

Specific Comment #2: As commented on other work plan reviews, revise the text to include a requirement that scows and equipment which have been in direct contact with TSCA sediments will require PCB wipe sampling verification of proper decontamination prior to using equipment for non TSCA sediment and or clean backfill placement.

Commenting Organization: EGLE

Section: 4.0

Page #: 5

Lines #: N/A

Specific Comment #3: Revise this section to provide additional details of waste storage in the exclusion zone, such as secondary containment of waste containers. Also include a reference to a relevant work plan which details testing requirements of generated waste prior to disposal.

Commenting Organization: EGLE

Section: 5.0

Page #: 5

Lines #: 4-6

Specific Comment #4: Provide a reference or basis for the 10 micrograms per 100 square centimeters threshold for PCB wipe sampling.

Commenting Organization: EGLE

Section: 5

Page #: 5

Lines #: 6-8

Specific Comment #5: Delete the last sentence. Continuous wipe sampling should be performed throughout the program regardless of how well cleaning was done at the beginning. Severson may introduce new field members who may not have been performing initial decontamination; human nature to relax standards on repetitive work is always a challenge on construction sites; and implementing best practices including QC checks of decontamination should be provided.

Commenting Organization: EGLE

Section: 6

Page #: 5

Lines #: N/A

Specific Comment #6: This section is missing a description of how Severson will verify proper disinfection and how they will log it. Revise the text to include this information.

Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site

Area 1 Water Treatment Plan

Remedial Reach

Kalamazoo River Area 1

April 2022

GENERAL COMMENTS

Commenting Organization: EGLE

General Comment #1: Add a figure for RSA 3 showing the geobag and the proposed location of the frac tank.

Commenting Organization: EGLE

General Comment #2: If anionic polymer or other additives are required, treatability studies to determine appropriate dosages should be conducted and the results provided for to EGLE and EPA for review.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Commenting Organization: EGLE

Section: 2.0

Page #: 1

Lines #: 6-8

Specific Comment #1: The text states that, "*The on-site WTS will treat water to the requirements presented in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and pending Substantive Requirements Document (SRD) – Attachment 1.*" Because Attachment 1 has not been included with the water treatment plan, the list of analytes required to be tested for NPDES permit compliance should be provided. In addition to PCBs, other contaminants (i.e., PFAS, dioxins/furans, etc.) may be required for compliance as part of the NPDES permit requirements as these contaminants are known to exist at the site.

Commenting Organization: EGLE

Section: 3.1.2

Page #: 2

Lines #: 1-3

Specific Comment #2: The text states that, "*The SPA containment system has sufficient capacity to accommodate water generated during storm events.*" Revise the text to specify the largest storm event (e.g., 2-year flood event) that the SPA containment system can accommodate.

Commenting Organization: EGLE

Section: 3.2

Page #: 3

Lines #: 3-8

Specific Comment #3: Clarify what Severson will do if large storm events occur exceeding the capacity of the temporary storage frac tank in RSA 3. Will additional frac tanks be provided in preparation for large storm events? As noted in the Specific Comment 2 above, specify the largest storm event (e.g., 2-year flood event) the current system is sized to contain so that an assessment of the storage volume can be conducted.

Commenting Organization: EGLE

Section: 3.2

Page #: 4

Lines #: 1-2

Specific Comment #4: Revise the text to provide details on how discharge locations will be configured to prevent scouring.

Commenting Organization: EGLE

Allied Paper Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site
Area 1 Water Treatment Plan
Remedial Reach
Kalamazoo River Area 1
April 2022

Section: 3.4.1

Page #: 5

Lines #: 6

Specific Comment #5: Clarify what corrective measures will be taken if signs of erosion are observed at discharge locations.